

you could help us by reminding the people that we have a switchboard down here. It's 202-225-3121.

It may not be able to do anything because the leadership just walked away without the courtesy of saying that they didn't have time to deal with the millions of people whose lives have been affected. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, if you can remind Americans who are just watching that maybe they should call and ask the Congress and ask the Speaker, Please, reconsider. We're going to be here tomorrow. We were told to be here tomorrow.

Whatever happened to make someone angry tonight, the people that are suffering as a result of this disaster, they're not responsible. Don't make them pay for it.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise not as a person from a State that was directly affected, because my State of Pennsylvania, while impacted, had no where near the devastation of that which I saw in New York, New Jersey, and parts of Connecticut.

In fact, I was in New York a week ago in an elevator and met a man who was telling me how happy he was that he finally had a chance to get out of the pickup truck that he had been sleeping in since the storm. He was hoping, for the first time, to get back to his home. His story is just one of hundreds of thousands through this devastated region.

We have stepped up for our neighbors in other parts of our country because these acts of nature are larger than any individual. We must be larger than that. Support the ability to give that support to those in this time of need.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, if you've ever had a natural disaster affect your area or if you have ever visited a natural disaster, be it in California, my home State, or on the east coast or in the Midwest, whether Iowa and the floods or Missouri in recent times, and spoke to and listened to the pain in the voices and saw the fright in the eyes of the people affected, you would wonder why we are not bringing this legislation to the floor. It isn't about a natural disaster; it's about a human experience.

When I was a very new Member of Congress in the late eighties, we were affected in California by the Loma Prieta earthquake. I bring that up because the very next day after the earthquake, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Jamie Whitten, came to the floor of the House without anyone going to him or asking

him. He went to the floor of the House and said to the people of California, Congress will honor our responsibility to the American people. We will put forth what meets the needs of the people. We need to work together to get that done. It was such a comfort.

These were just words. It was such a comfort to the people just to hear that and to know that a chairman would act upon that. And for the past few weeks, I know that our colleagues from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, some in Pennsylvania and other surrounding areas, have been assuring their constituents and the people of their areas that the Federal Government would be there for them. It is a social compact. It is the most important tie they have to us.

Again, if you could hear their personal stories you will know they'll never be made whole. The rug has been pulled out from under them in terms of their housing, their belongings, their pictures, their memories, the character of their neighborhoods. The rug has been pulled out, and now tonight, is this Congress, this House of Representatives, going to pull the rug out again from them legislatively?

Just as a reminder, the Senate of the United States, in a bipartisan fashion, passed a \$60.4 billion assistance program for this natural disaster. It met the documented needs that were put forth by the people of the regions, by Governor Christie, by Governor Cuomo, by Governor Malloy, Governor Bloomberg, and so many others. So, documented need.

Again, it's not going to make everyone whole emotionally in their personal belongings and their memories and the rest, but it is a sign of respect that we cannot let what happened stand and that the resources will be there to try to return them to some sense of order and home and home life.

I don't know if any decision has been made. I hope not. I hope that as the leadership meets and considers a possible agenda for tomorrow, they would reconsider this because this goes deep into the hearts of people as they feel a sense of helplessness for something they had no responsibility for, a natural disaster.

Remember last year when we visited some of the places where homes were uprooted? It's earth, wind, and fire. When something like that happens, it's the wind, it's the water, it's the fire. It's every kind of thing assaulting people. Let's not be a part of that assault by putting doubts in their mind as to whether there is an appreciation for what they have lost, a respect for who they are, and honoring of our social compact that the government will be there when people are in need.

Again, I hearken back to Jamie Whitten. We never had a moment to fear that our needs would be met. Let's just make this night pass as if it never happened. Let's just replace the impression that is out there with the idea that tomorrow we will take up the Sen-

ate bill or take up the compromise that has been worked out to take this in two tranches. We cannot leave here doing nothing. That would be a disgrace.

□ 2350

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. PLATTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PLATTS. As a retiring Member, I am proud to stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania to urge action on this important issue.

Over the past 2 years, I've often been frustrated by the actions of the Senate—or the inactions, I should say, of the Senate—where we would send bill after bill over there. Not that they would vote it down, but they just wouldn't vote. They wouldn't allow the will of the people to be expressed by a vote's being taken.

If we conclude this session of Congress at noon on Thursday of this week without voting on this important issue, we are denying the will of the people to be expressed. We're not allowing that to happen. I would contend of the will of the people of America that the one thing they're comfortable in spending their money on is in helping their fellow Americans, and there is great need in New Jersey, in New York and elsewhere.

We need to stand together, and I hope that we will come to the decision that it's never too late to do the right thing. The right thing is to allow the will of the people to be expressed, for this issue to be voted on and to let the Members express their opinions through their votes. I'm certain, if that's the case, if that happens, the will of the people will be to send the aid that is so badly needed.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. I am very dismayed by what I have heard tonight. Citizens of this Nation—any of us—would think at a time of natural disaster they could depend on their Congress, their Nation, the people of this country. Many times, we have come to the aid of citizens throughout this Nation. Why not now? What is different now? New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and parts of Pennsylvania have been devastated. My district not as much, but we still have issues there that need to be addressed.

Just the other day, I was on vacation with my children, and I got a call. There was a leak in the roof of my house. I did not realize there was about a 10-foot patch in my roof missing—from Sandy. I had the wherewithal to take care of it, but there are hundreds of thousands of residents in those States who need our help.